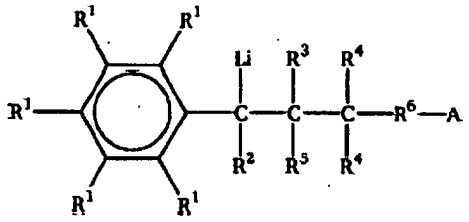
Amendment to the Claims

1. (Original) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound.

2. (Original) An anionic polymerization initiator defined according to the formula I:

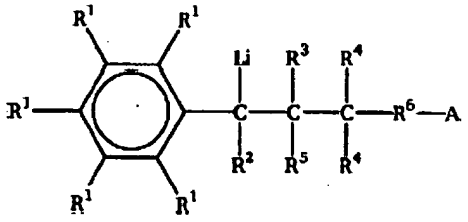
(I) 

where each R^1 is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R^4 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R^5 is a hydrocarbyl group, where at least one of R^3 or R^5 is hydrocarbyl, R^6 is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

3. (Original) A polymer prepared by a process of comprising the steps of:

polymerizing monomer with an initiator that is prepared by combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by

(I) 

where each R^1 is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R^4 is

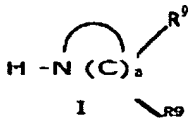
independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R^5 is a hydrocarbyl group, R^6 is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidiene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4- methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine (or -perhydroazepine), -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicycloöctane, or -perhydroisoquinoline, -perhydroindole.

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the cyclic-amino functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where the cylic amine compound is defined by the formula III

(III) 

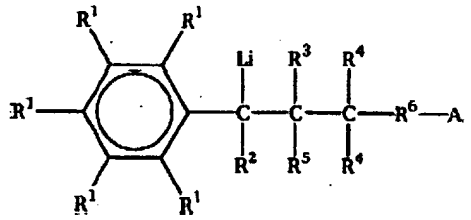
where each R^9 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~ where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~or polymer of claim 3,~~

where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized eletrophile.

11. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by

(I) 

where each R^1 is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R^4 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R^5 is a hydrocarbyl group, R^6 is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

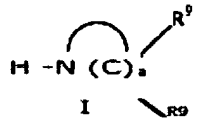
12. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidiene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine (or -perhydroazepine), -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicycloöctane, or -perhydroisoquinoline, - perhydroindole.

13. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the cyclic-amino functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

14. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

15. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where the cylic amine compound is defined

by the formula III

(III) 

where each R^9 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

16. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

17. (New) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized eletrophile.